

# Distinction Reigns in Blouses

DESIGNS BY MILDRED LODEWICK.



By Mildred Lodewick.

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OUR minds turn as naturally toward joy, happiness, peace and progress as flowers turn toward the sun. And to my mind harmonious dressing is ever the foremost factor in the harmonious adjustment of ourselves to our world. Most of us recognize this fact and although it is not put into actual words or thoughts the subconscious realization of it is evidenced through the desire of individuals, both men and women, for becoming attractive attire. Some people, as we all know, do not arrive at very satisfactory results. They are the ones who wear extreme styles in a fervent desire that is not reasoned with judgment; but others, fortunate and envied, are always able to strike a happy chord of pleasing expression.

Fashion's offerings are not meant for one and all alike, and therefore it is only you to blame if you do not mirror your personality successfully.

Now take for instance the Russian boots which have appeared coyly over spring's horizon! Every girl could not wear them. They require a debonaire manner, a lithesome form, to be carried well, and then they really are chic. I saw a Miss on the avenue the other day wearing a pair in tan suede trimmed with black patent leather, which were so perfectly suited to the type of the wearer, that they were not in the least conspicuous. A tan striped sport skirt, a tan embroidered silk sport hat, and a green sport jacket completed the outfit.

Green, by the way, is the latest sport color, in that soft tone between olive and emerald, with a bit of gray in it. It goes well with all the colors that tan does, and therefore is practical. One of the smartest top-coats I have seen was in this color with a brown leather buckle holding the belt, while a tan hat and shoes and stockings harmonized pleasingly.

Many of the street hats for spring intended for practical wear are so simple that it is a temptation to make them one's self. If you have not the time or ability to make the whole thing, you might elaborate an inexpensive one from the shops, in the way suggested in my sketch. Here three different colored ribbons in varying widths are applied in plaided effect to the upward turning brim. Dull blue, henna and green make a good combination for a tan or gray hat, while a henna hat might have deep yellow, green and dull blue or violet.

The ribbon might be woven with tinsel threads, and one or two of them with picot edges.

With this hat is pictured a sleeveless blouse of gray, duvetyn supplemented with a sheer white guimpe. Mimosa yellow duvetyn tied with black moire strings at the neck would be very effective with any white sport skirt. Another suggestion which would be individual and smart would be dark foulard coin-spotted with white for the blouse, with sheer white sleeves. White Georgette could form the lining of the blouse.

Have you noticed how practical Georgette has become of late? Many of the little costume capes of satin or crepe-knit are lined with it. Sometimes neutral gray or tan it is, while in American beauty it has been seen to lend a spicy color touch to a black costume.

One of the most fetching cape costumes I have seen was of black charmeuse, the one-piece frock almost covered with black embroidery, while Bulgarian red duvetyn bound the

skirt and a huge metal ornament with the same color introduced held the girdle. The cape was not more than 18 inches long, of the charmeuse, the collar embroidered and bound with the duvetyn. Black Georgette lined the cape.

I have designed at the left an individual sport blouse that hangs straight like a box jacket but is slipped on over the head. It is made of sport silk in white or a color, with applique embroidery of colored kid and floss. This is something the fastidious girl who aims at distinction will like to make for herself. Flower or fruit effects, cut from the kid of various colors, can be made plain with floss catlines and outlinings, and stems. A band of contrasting colored silk finishing the edge of the blouse and sleeves adds in the color scheme and decoration.

Undersleeves of fine white material, either net or batiste in the form of many frills or puffs, have been seen on some of the plain dark street frocks and are quite refreshing. In the blouse I have described, several ruffles of batiste complete the sleeve, while a collar of the same points away from the neck.

## Cretonnes in New Patterns.

DON'T be afraid to make your new dresses of cretonnes, and if there is a certain design that has always appealed to you particularly, then use it for a dress and you will be sure to be right.

They are using quaint little chintz patterns printed, not only on the backgrounds of white and cream, but on really quite yellowish tan surfaces. There are several advantages about this latter sort of stuff. In the first place, it wears well and does not so readily acquire all the layers of dust that are continually presenting themselves to the attention of any dress fabric. Then the printed colors stand

out so charmingly against the darker background, making the stuff more becoming to certain dark types of femininity.

The small designs are the ones which are most generally liked, but then there are the larger ones which also come in for their share of attention.

It will take the summer weather to prove the advantages of these cretonne dresses, but, as a little advance hint, it can be said that you are on the right path when you choose one of them to have a place in the things that make up your summer dress collection.

## Short Skirts Still Good for Suits.

IN all the showings of spring and summer suits it is interesting to see the skirts still staying at some appreciable distance above the ground.

We are subject to all sort of shocks in this direction. Often we hear words to the effect that skirts will trail upon the floor before very long. But all of these warnings seem to be in the nature of false alarms, for evidently the American girls are simply and quietly refusing to wear skirts that are longer than those which are most comfortable for their uses.

So go ahead at your own will and have the suits—or your skirts, at least—made just as short as you like them.

Evening and afternoon dresses will be somewhat longer. At least portions of their skirts will trail on down below a short hem line. This is a sort of a concession, but it is none the less extremely smart, and when the trailing portions are made of softer silks and chiffons they have so much of gracefulness about them that they are much to be desired even by those who cling tenaciously to the short skirt idea.

## For the Home Dressmaker

Dear Miss Lodewick:

I have 4-1-4 yards of black chiffon cloth 45 inches wide which I would like to make up for myself. Would like the dress to be practical yet dressy enough for afternoon and am 35 years of age; weight 150 pounds; 5 ft. 5½; bust 42. Mrs. C. L. S.

Periwinkle blue Georgette could bind neck and face sleeves, also form small inner yoke and pointed mostly in jet beads.



Dear Miss Lodewick:

The skirt of my last year's navy blue tricot suit does not come together at the waistline and is tight around the hips, due to my gain in weight, but the jacket fits perfectly. Have tried to match material, but in vain. Can I convert this into a three-piece suit? Would appreciate any suggestion. Am twenty-two years of age, weigh 115 pounds, 5 feet 1½ inches tall. MISS H. G.

Your idea of three-piece suit is good. To your skirt could be attached a bodice portion of black or dark blue charmeuse satin at the hip line; opening side seams of skirt below it as far as to make comfortable, and extending the satin down in points to fill it in. You might even make these side sections wider than is necessary to give a better effect.

Dear Miss Lodewick:

I am seventeen years of age and attend high school. I should like to have your advice as to a youthful dress for school wear. Am quite stout and of medium height. Miss L. L. K.

Dark blue or brown Kasha cloth or Jersey bound with bright red or henna. White linen or red and white checked gingham collar and cuffs.

